

# AMISH PERTUSSIS OUTBREAK

## KENT COUNTY, DELAWARE

NOV 2013 - PRESENT

---

Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology

# BACKGROUND

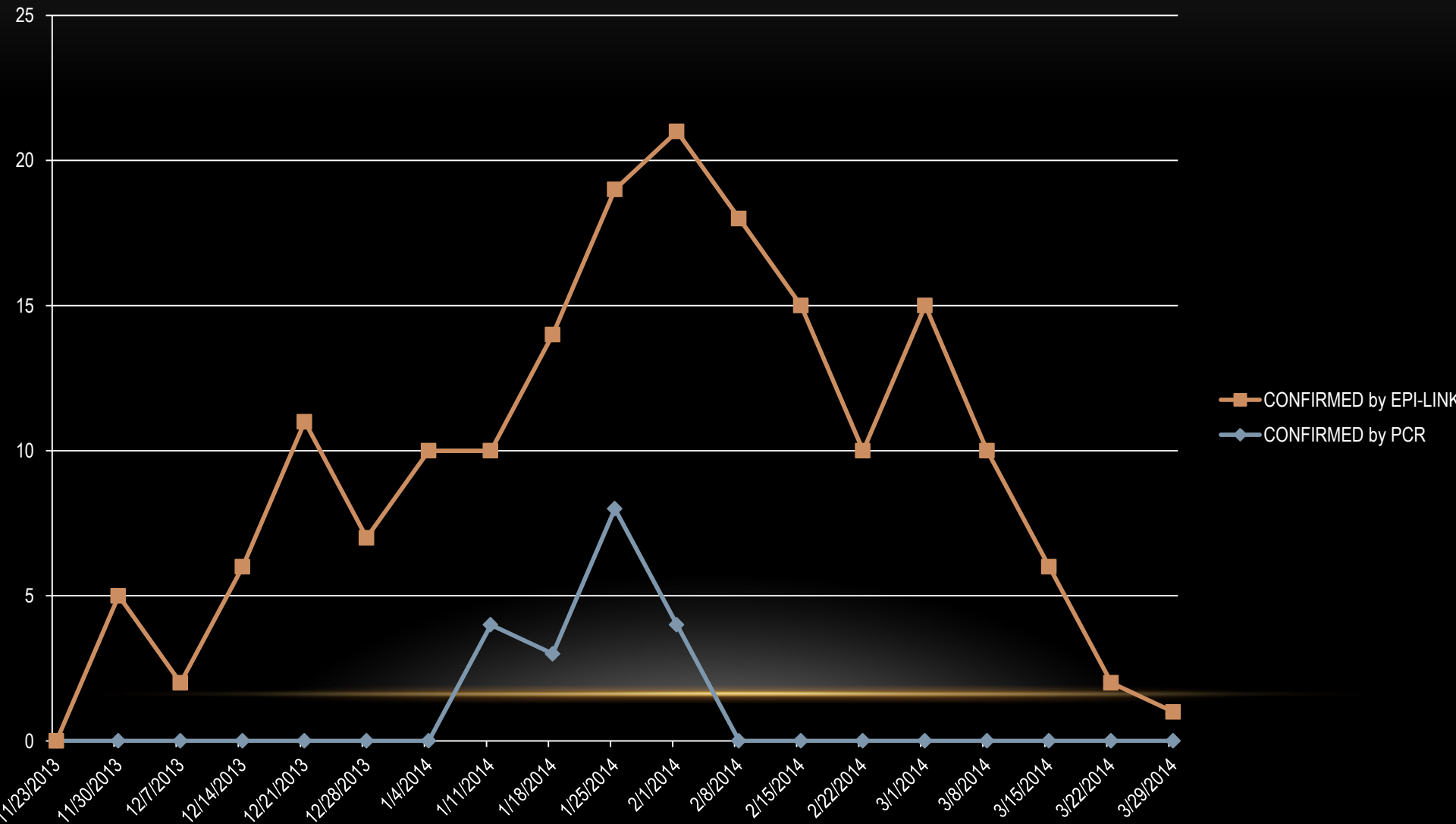
- Vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks continue to occur among under-vaccinated populations in the US, including contained religious communities.
- The Amish practice separation from the world through group solidarity and caring for their own.
- Amish religious doctrine does not prohibit vaccination; however, coverage levels for routine childhood vaccination remain low in many Amish communities, including the community in western Kent County, DE.
- Previous outbreak Sept 2004 – February 2005 resulted in >300 cases and primarily affected preschool-aged children.

# CASE COUNTS

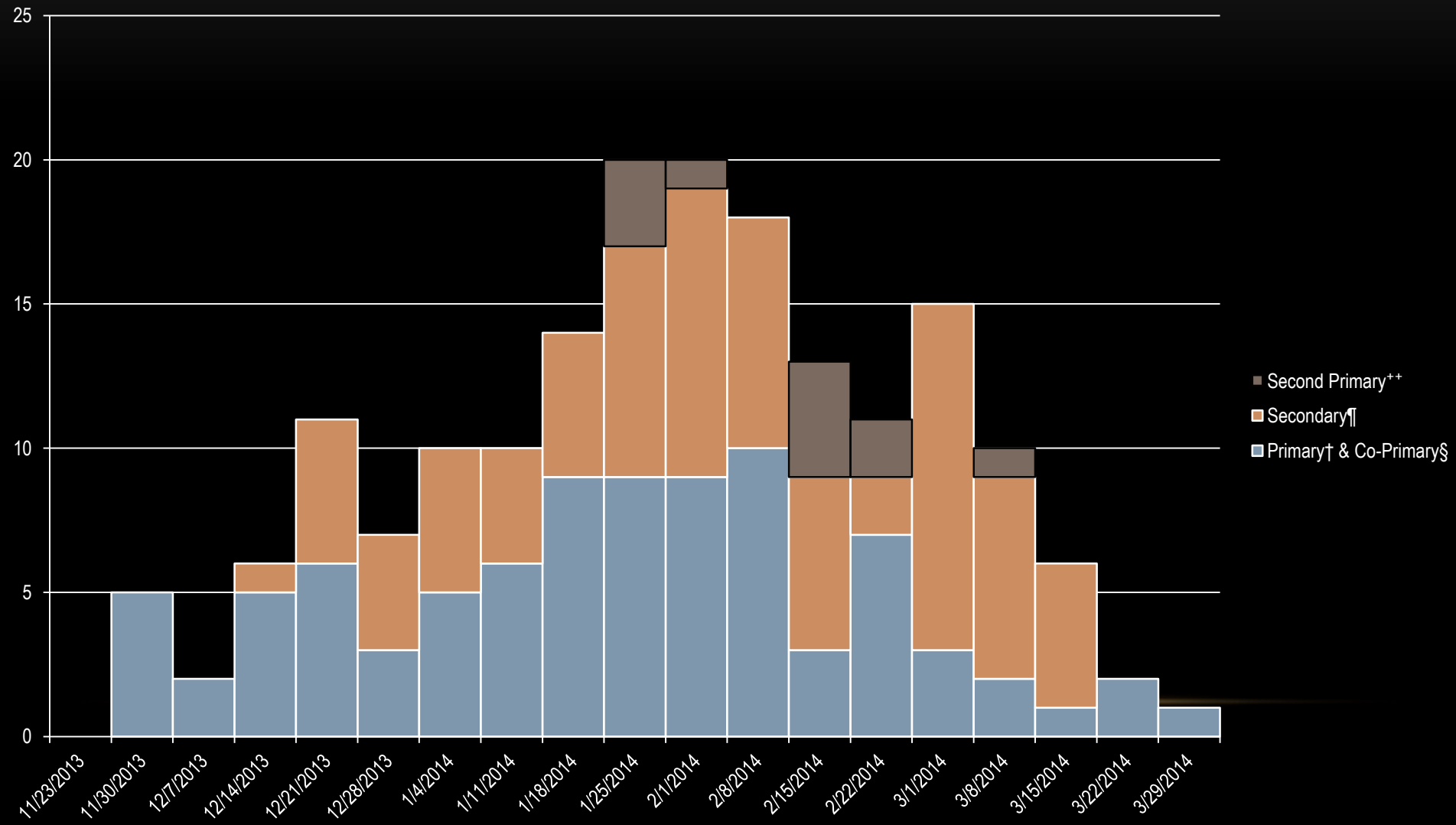
- As of April 7, 2014:
  - 19 confirmed by PCR at DPHL
    - 2 culture confirmed by CDC
  - 163 Epi-linked per CSTE case definition
- **TOTAL = 182 CONFIRMED CASES**



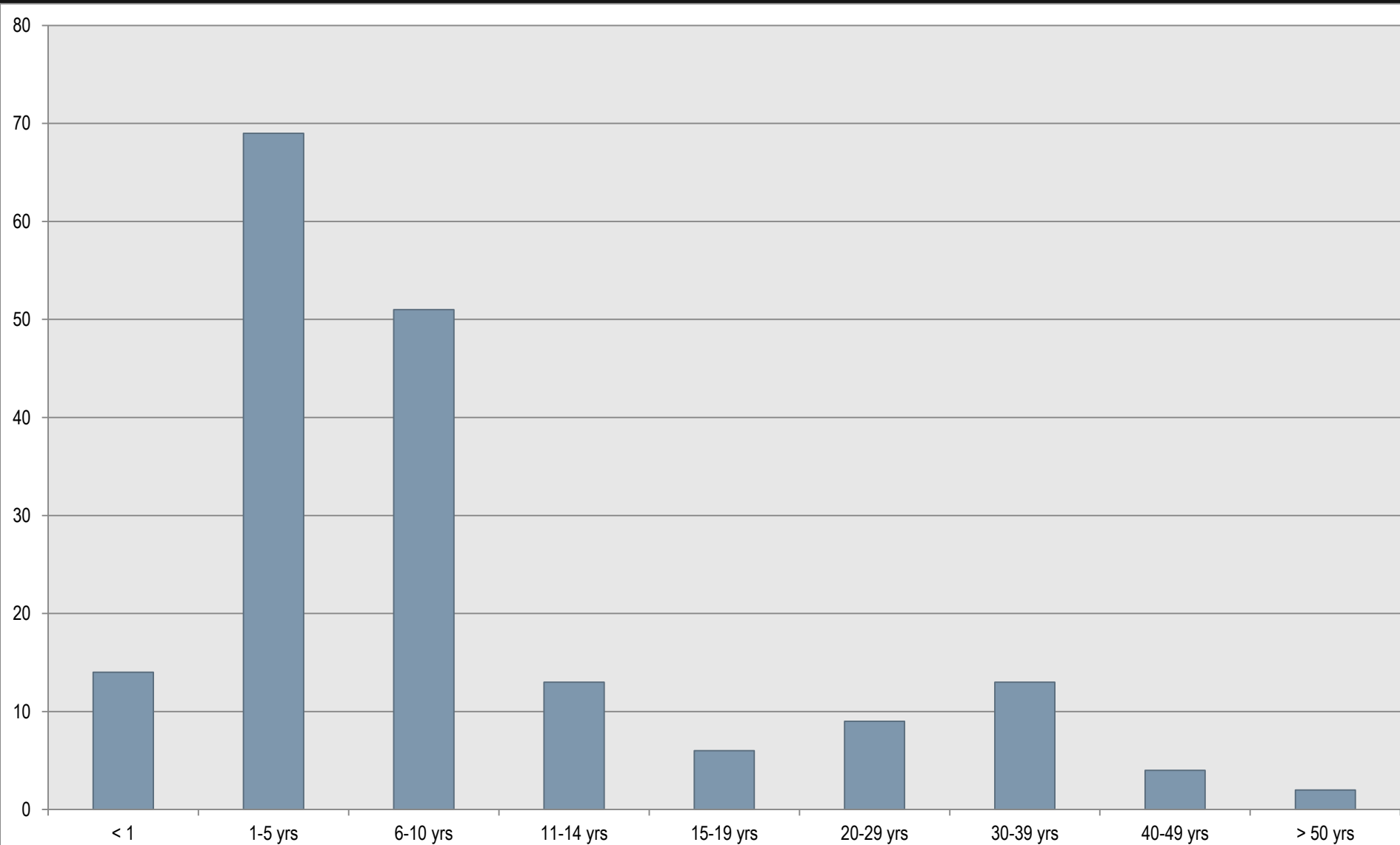
# ONSET BY WEEK



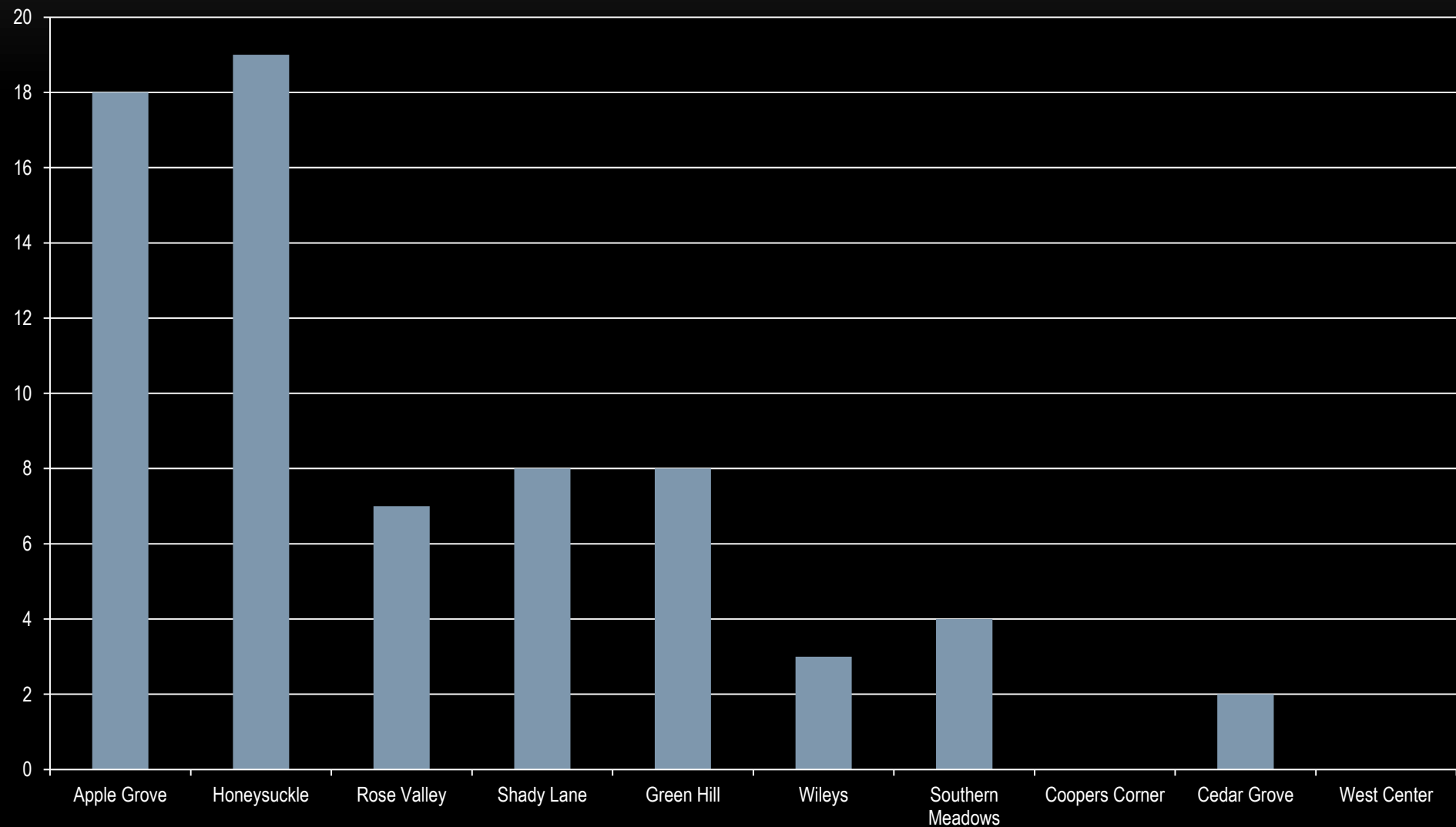
# EPI-CURVE



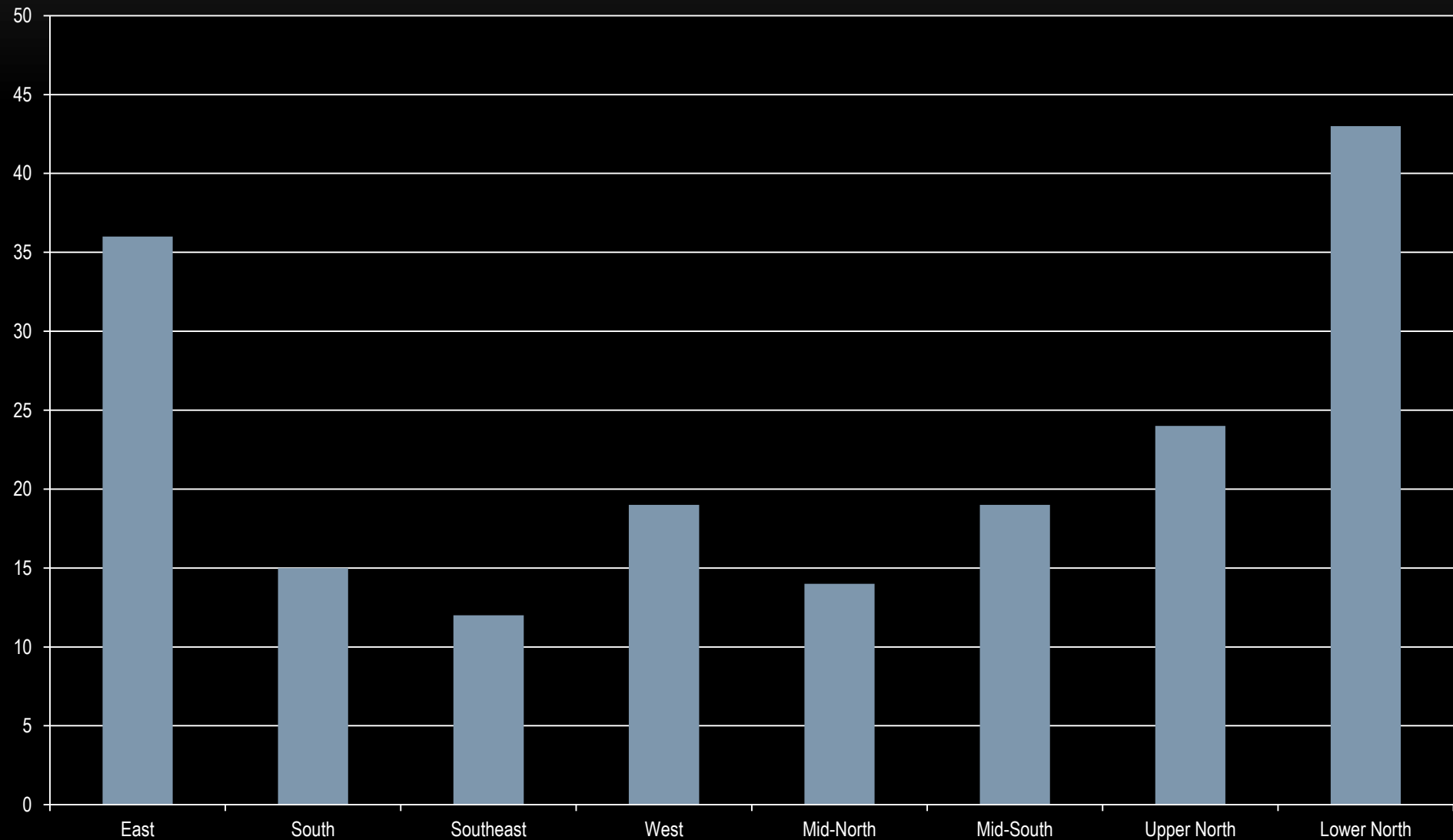
# AGE DISTRIBUTION



# BY AMISH SCHOOL DISTRICT



# BY AMISH CHURCH DISTRICT





# PREVENTION & CONTROL MEASURES

- DPH nurses from Williams State Service Center (WSSC) alerted Epidemiology of anecdotal reports from Amish families suggesting there may be active cases in the community.
- Control measures and active surveillance were instituted
  - Enhanced contact investigations – initially farm-to-farm then by phone
  - Two vaccination/treatment clinics conducted by WSSC staff at an Amish home
  - Antibiotics continue to be dispensed & delivered to Amish homes by DPH nurses
  - Amish-specific information sheets distributed to all Amish bishops and Amish schools for distribution to families
  - Ongoing education and outreach to the community
- To increase awareness of the outbreak among healthcare providers, health-alert notices were distributed

# FINALLY....

- No deaths have occurred as a result of this outbreak
- No hospitalizations have been reported
- This outbreak underscores the need to promote vaccination in Amish communities through culturally appropriate strategies.
  - Dispelling decades old ‘myths’ surrounding “Whooping Cough” is an ongoing challenge



# QUESTIONS?

